REMARKS

Claims 1-31 were originally presented in the subject application. Claims 1, 11 and 22 were amended, claims 2, 12 and 23 were cancelled, and claims 32-50 were added in a Preliminary Amendment dated July 23, 2003. No claims have herein been amended, added or canceled. Therefore, claims 1, 3-11, 13-22 and 24-50 remain in this case.

Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendment to the specification, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the grounds of rejection.

Request for Information

The prior Office Action noted a number of items listed in the specification, and incorporated by reference, requesting copies thereof for consideration. Most of the references were either accounted for, or provided on CR ROM with the response dated February 2, 2006. Of the remaining five references, two were provided with a Supplemental Response dated May 4, 2006. As noted in that Supplemental Response, the remaining references listed below were unable to be located:

1. "Component Broker Programming Reference Release 2.0," IBM Publication No. SC09-2810-04 (Dec. 1998);

2. "Component Broker Programming Guide Release 2.0," IBM Publication No. GO4L-2376-04 (Dec. 1998); and

3. "Component Broker Advanced Programming Guide Release 2.0," IBM Publication No. SC09-2708-03 (Dec. 1998).

The final Office Action notes that a link to the CORBA 2.2 specification provided in a physical copy of a provided reference led to an error and the document was not found. However, Applicants point out that the CORBA 2.2 specification was submitted with Applicant's response dated February 2, 2006. As a side note, it appears that version 2.2 is no longer available, and

was replaced with version 2.3, currently available at URL http://www.omg.org/cgi-bin/doc?formal/98-12-01. Nonetheless, version 2.2 should already be in the file.

Objection to Specification

The final Office Action objected to the specification for inclusion of a URL, and required deletion thereof.

In response, Applicants have amended the specification to remove the noted URL. As such, the amendment herein complies with the requirement of the final Office Action.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

The final Office Action rejected claims 1, 3-11, 13-22 and 24-50 under 35 U.S.C. §103, as allegedly obvious over Held et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,802,367) in view of Thatte et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,442,620). Applicants respectfully, but most strenuously, traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 recites a method of providing access to an object of a computing environment. The method comprises requesting access, by a requester, to an object located in an address space of the computing environment, the requester being resident within the address space. The method also comprises providing access to the object using a local access proxy located within the address space, wherein use of the local access proxy provides separation of management of one or more object references to the object from management of one or more virtual memory copies of the object.

Against the requesting aspect of claim 1, for example, the final Office Action cites to Held et al. at column 10, lines 62-67. According to that aspect of claim 1, the requestor and the object are both located in the same address space. However, column 10 of Held teaches that to *remotely* access an object, the client program sends an activation request to the client service control manager through local RPC mechanisms. It is the communication to the client service control manager that is done through local RPC mechanisms, not the object access. See Held at column 10, lines 46-48: "...the client program 601 communicates with the client service control

manager 602 through local remote procedure call 'RPC' mechanisms." In other words, the client program and client service control manager sit on the same node. See FIG. 6 of Held. However, this does not mean that the object itself is local. In fact, the first sentence of the noted paragraph in column 10 of Held, starting at line 34, makes clear that this is a description of how the client program remotely accesses an object. The request to the control manager is local, but the object to which the client program seeks access is remote.

As another example, against the claim 1 aspect of use of the local access proxy providing separation of the management of object reference(s) from management of virtual memory cop(ies) of the object, the final Office Action at numbered section 6 cites to Thatte et al. The final Office Action emphasizes the embodiment of Thatte where the client component application is in the same apartment as the server component application object. However, Applicants do not simply claim separation, but separation *provided by* use of the local access proxy. The facelets (and associated facelet-managing proxy manager) of Thatte are only used in the embodiment where the client component application object and the server component application object are in *different* apartments (column 13, lines 42-63), which are in *separate domains* (column 11, lines 27-28). As noted above, claim 1 recites that the local access proxy is in the *same address space* as both the requestor and the object to which access is being requested. Thus, use of the proxy in Thatte is not in a situation where the requestor, local access proxy and object are located in the same address space.

Therefore, for at least the above reasons, Applicants submit that claim 1 cannot be obviated over Held et al. in view of Thatte et al.

Each of independent claims 11, 21 and 22 contains limitations similar to those argued above with respect to claim 1. Thus, the remarks above are equally applicable to those claims. Therefore, Applicants submit that none of claims 11, 21 or 22 can be made obvious over Held et al. in view of Thatte et al.

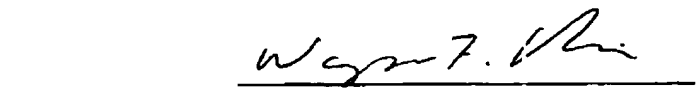
CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the dependent claims are allowable for the same reasons as the independent claims from which they directly or ultimately depend, as well as for their additional limitations. In that regard, Applicants do not acquiesce to the alleged teachings of the cited references relative to the dependent claims.

For all the above reasons, Applicants maintain that the claims of the subject application define patentable subject matter and earnestly request allowance of claims 1, 3-11, 13-22 and 24-50.

If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, Applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,



Wayne F. Reinke
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No.: 36,650

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HESLIN ROTHENBERG FARLEY & MESITI P.C.
5 Columbia Circle
Albany, New York 12203-5160
Telephone: (518) 452-5600
Facsimile: (518) 452-5579